


McCormick’s Creek State Park


Nature Center Hours:
EST 9:30am-4:00pm, Daily
Group programs available-
Arrange one month in advance.
Nature Center: (812) 829-4344
Park Office: 812-829-2235

Naturalists: Marquita Manley,
Don Larkin, Staci Radford-Vincent
Receptionists: Barbra Toops, Jean
Bowman



Property Mgr: Dwight Brooks
Learn how you can earn a free Park Patch – Details at Nature Center
Visit the Interpretive Nature Center for live snakes, a wildlife-viewing room,
exhibits, games, puppets & request to see videos (until 3pm).
Watch for our Hikes 

Children ages 5-18: Are you on the Interpretive Services Discovery Team? Get your expedition log stamped at the Nature Center! Have you journeyed to 8 properties and recorded your memories? Present your stamped expedition log at the Nature Center to claim your Expedition Discovery Kit!
.....


Friday, August 15

- 10:00am**  **NEAT! It’s the Creek!** Ramble along McCormick’s Creek and discover all kinds of neat things; fossils, animal tracks, turtles....you never know what Nature has in store! Meet at Canyon Inn front steps. (1 hr. rugged hike)
- 2:00pm** **Rachel’s Web -** We’re all part of the web of life. Learn about the interconnection between all living things in this activity inspired by the writings of Rachel Carson (Silent Spring). Meet in the Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. (30 min)
- 3:00pm** **“Web” Scavenger Hunt** – Meet at the Nature Center (30 min.)


Saturday, August 16

- 8:00am**  **Early Bird Hike -** See which of our feathered friends have called this park home all summer. Trail 9 offers easy access to forest and field habitat and the early hour allows good bird activity and cooler temperatures. Meet at **Deer Run Shelter** (1 hr)
- 10:00am** **Cool Crows -** Taken for granted and often misunderstood, Crows (and their relatives) are among our most intelligent and fascinating feathered friends. Share your stories, too. Meet in the Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. (30 min)
- 1:00pm**  **Duck..Duck...DUCKWEED!** Duckweed is just one of the unbelievably small plants we will find on this quick walk to the pond in the campground. Get a look at the smaller side of nature! Meet at the **Campground Parking Lot**. (30 min)
- 2:30pm** **Uninvited Guests: Raccoons at your campsite** Let’s do a background check on these masked bandits—where do they live, what do they eat, what’s their family life? Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. 30 min. Stay for a quick craft: “Raccoon in a Trash Can” :)

Sunday, August 17

- 9:00am**  **Inspired by Nature -** A great family hike! Nature has inspired poets and artists for centuries. This hike will explore inspirational Indiana scenery as we hear some simple poems along the way. Meet at **Friendly Shelter** (by family cabins). (30 min)
- 11:00am** **Ode to Nature -** Nature has always inspired poets. We’ll hear a few nature poems and get a chance to write our own on decorative paper. Stay for our own poetry reading.
Like, cool daddy-o. Meet in the Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. (30 min)
- 1:00pm** **Naturemarks (craft)** Book on over to the Nature Center to make a nifty nature bookmark. We will also have a list of recommended nature books for you to take home. Meet in the Nature Center Program Room. (30 min)

Monday, August 18

- 1:00pm**  **Pioneer Trees** –You may know that early pioneers used many edible and medicinal plants and trees, but do you know what else they used trees for? We'll take a short walk around the Nature Center and find out! (30 min.)
- 2:00pm** **Lovely Leaf Prints** – Create a leaf print booklet to take home! Nature Center. (30 min)
- 3:00pm** **“Eyewitness: Trees”** – Look into the heart of a tree, learn its secrets! 30 minute video. Nature Center program room.


Tuesday, August 19

- 10:00am** **Tree Cookies and Tree-via Tidbits** - What can you learn from a tree's cross-section about its age, its health and growth conditions, environmental disasters, etc? Nature Center (30 min)
- 1:00pm** **Sassafras Jewelry** -Decorate yourself with tree twigs... We'll use “beads” of sassafras twigs to make natural necklaces and bracelets! They are surprisingly beautiful! Nature Center (30 min)


Wednesday, August 20

- 11:00am** **“See How They Grow: Pond Animals!”** Great for young children—short video presentations of pond animals showing growth from babies to adults. Nature Center program room.
- 1:00pm** **Much Ado About Ospreys** - Indiana began its latest reintroduction project in July. Come learn about the DNR's efforts to restore this unique bird of prey to the Hoosier State. Meet in the Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. (30 min)
- 3:00pm** **Soaring Ospreys (Simple Craft)** - Ospreys are “back home again in Indiana”. You can make you very own Osprey today to take “back home” with you!! Meet in the Nature Center Program Room. (30 min)


Thursday, August 21

- 11:00am** **Going Batty** - Learn how bats use sonar to locate their prey in this fun role playing game. Meet in the Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. (45 min)
- 1:00pm** **A Face Only a Mother Could Love** - Bats, Toads, Vultures... Nature isn't always pretty, but it is always fascinating. Learn to appreciate the amazing adaptations of some misunderstood creatures. Meet in the Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. (30 min)
- 3:00pm**  **Hike to the Falls-** Learn about the geology of the falls, and the creatures that live there. Meet at the **Canyon Inn** front steps. (easy, 30 min)



Friday, August 22

- 8:00am**  **Early Bird Hike!** See which of our feathered friends have called this park home all summer. Trail 7 offers ravine and creek habitats and the early hour allows good bird activity and cooler temperatures. Note: Steep stairway provides access to creek bottom. **Meet at Wolf Cave Parking Lot.** (2 hr)
- 11:00am** **Build-a-Beaver** - With a wave of the magic beaver stick, POOF, we'll turn someone into a beaver!!(Well, sort -of) Come join in this light-hearted tribute to the hardest working rodent in the woods. Meet in the Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. (30 min)
- 2:00pm** **“Leaf”-ing Impressions** - Every leaf is unique, just like you! Simple leaf rubbings make beautiful pictures and can help you identify different trees. Meet in the Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. (30 min)

Saturday, August 23

- 10:00am**  **Duck..Duck...DUCKWEED!** Duckweed is just one of the unbelievably small plants we will find on this quick walk to the pond in the campground. Get a look at the smaller side of nature! Meet at the **Campground Parking Lot.** (30 min)
- 1:30pm** **Meet Mother Nature-** A special treat!!! Mother Nature will be visiting the **Nature Center** today to meet and talk to young nature lovers. Come tell Mother Nature who your favorite animal is and she'll tell you something special about them! (30 min)
She will also be telling stories this afternoon!
- 2:00pm** **Mother Nature's Storytime** - Come sit with Mother Nature as she reads stories about her animal friends to young nature lovers. Nature Center (30 min.)

Sunday, August 24

- 10:00am**  **Hike to the Statehouse Quarry** – Our historic stone quarry, established to build the Indianapolis State House, was worked until 1887. See how nature has reclaimed it! Meet at Canyon Inn front steps. (1 hr.)
- 1:00pm**  **Geology Hike** Can rocks tell stories? See the creek, falls, and canyon! Nature Center (45 min)
- 3:00pm** **Tree ID and Leaf Rubbings** - Leaf shape, size, color, texture all help us learn the trees. Choose your favorite leaf and make a print to take home. Nature Center outdoor program area.(45 min)

Monday, August 25

- 1:00pm** “**Venomous Snakes**” – Even dangerous animals have a purpose in nature. Identify venomous snakes, including the four types found in Indiana. Nature Center program room. Video (1 hr)
- 2:30pm** “**Bats: The Untold Story**” Short video about our only flying mammal, its benefits to the environment and the efforts being made for its conservation. Meet in the Nature Center Program Room. (30 min)


Tuesday, August 26

- “**See How They Grow: Forest Animals!**” Great for young children—short video presentations of pond animals showing growth from babies to adults. Nature Center program room.
- 1:00pm** **The Crowded Forest-** Have you ever noticed how many things live out in the woods?! Learn the secret to the diversity in our forests in this engaging interactive program. Meet in the Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. (30 min)
- 3:00pm** **Love It or Leaf It !** - There is more than meets the eye to the layer of leaves under the trees!! Find out what in the world is going on in the forest floor! Meet in the Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. (30 min)



Wednesday, August 27

- 11:00am** **Tree’s Company** - Would you want a tree as a roommate? Chances are, you already have one. Come learn how important trees are to our lives. You may want to hug a tree next time you see one!! Meet in the Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. (30 min)
- 2:00pm** “**Web**” **Scavenger Hunt** – Meet at the Nature Center (30 min.)



Thursday, August 28

- 10:00am**  **Fossil Walk and Talk** Get a brief look at geology samples and then take a 30 min. hike to see a coral fossil bed in the creek! Meet at Nature Center.
- 11:00am** “**Cutters of Stone**” – Excellent short video featuring local stone quarries—also shows vintage footage of stone quarry techniques like those used at our State House Quarry! Nature Center.
- 2:00pm** **Picture Rocks – (craft)** – Create a unique souvenir of your trip to McCormick’s Creek State Park. Use your picture rocks to play some easy games you can take back to your campsite! Nature Center (30 min)


Friday, August 29

- 9:00am**  **Hike to Wolf Cave** - Groundwater has shaped the park as we see it today. See the resulting sink holes and the cave that now define our karst landscape. **Wolf Cave Parking Lot.** (1 ½ hr)
- 1:00pm**  **Making Tracks** – Let’s go sleuthing in the mud to see which animals have been to the creek and left their tracks behind. Create some of your own!! Meet at the Nature Center. (30min)
- 3:00pm** **A Face Only a Mother Could Love** - Bats, Toads, Vultures... Nature isn’t always pretty, but it is always fascinating. Learn to appreciate the amazing adaptations of some misunderstood creatures. Meet in the Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. (30 min)


Saturday, August 30

- 9:00am**  **Inspired by Nature** - A great family hike! Nature has inspired poets and artists for centuries. This hike will explore inspirational Indiana scenery as we hear some simple poems along the way. Meet at **Friendly Shelter** (by family cabins). (30 min)
- 11:00am**  **NEAT! It’s the Creek!** Ramble along McCormick’s Creek and discover all kinds of neat things; fossils, animal tracks, turtles....who knows!? **Canyon Inn** front steps. (1 hr. rugged hike)
- 2:00pm** **This Land is Your Land:** See the old Woody Guthrie song come to life in amazing illustrations. This children’s book celebrates the natural beauty of America set to the words of this popular folk song. Bring your kids for this special story time!! Meet in the Nature Center Outdoor Program Area. (30 min)

Sunday, August 31

- 9:15am** **Worship Service** – Non-denominational. Meet in the Nature Center program room. (30 min)
- 10:00am**  **Hike to the Falls-** Learn about the geology of the falls, and the creatures that live there on this easy walk. Meet at the Canyon Inn. (45 min)
- 1:00pm** **Bats: The True Story** Get the real scoop on these flying mammals that come out when the sun goes down! Meet at the Nature Center outdoor program area. (30min)

Monday, September 1 Labor Day

- 11:00am**  **Hike to the Statehouse Quarry** – Our historic stone quarry, established to build the Indianapolis State House, was worked until 1887. Meet at Canyon Inn front steps. 1 hr.
- 2:00pm** “**Cutters of Stone**” – Excellent short video featuring local stone quarries-- shows vintage footage of stone quarry techniques like those used at our State House Quarry! Nature Center.